

Closing remarks TDB 64th Session
Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

- When SG Kituyi and I (with one voice) opened this TDB last week, we reflected on the natural disasters and climate change-induced weather events that have been threatening the entire world in recent weeks. In the 10 or so days, which have passed since, yet another devastating storm has struck the Caribbean with unprecedented force, and just days ago a second deadly earthquake has rocked Mexico with ghastly consequences. Our thoughts, prayers and solidarity go out to all the people and governments trying to recover from these horrific tragedies.
- I know that the negotiations continue on the agreed conclusions for this TDB. I have the utmost confidence and trust that under the able leadership of TDB President Ambassador Ulianovschi and his bureau, that you will reach a satisfactory outcome.
- As you work to conclude this work, I wanted to address you to reflect on the past 10 days of work you have accomplished, and to look forward with you to the exciting work ahead of us.
- We've had a spirited session over the last two weeks, with a deputy head of state and a deputy head of government, with a number of ministers, and with heads and deputy heads of several important regional organizations. We've addressed the full gamut of UNCTAD's substantive work, from investment to e-commerce, from globalization to the international trading system. We've paid particular attention to the challenges of countries in special situations, including the LDCs, the LLDCs and SIDS, but also the special situation facing Palestine. We've reviewed the substantial work that has been accomplished over the past year, and we've had frank discussions about the important work ahead of us.
- You've heard from me already this past week offering you the Secretariat's views on how we are approaching phase 2 and the preparations for the mid-term review. We have endeavored to show you how we have responded to the Maafikiano's strengthening and enhancing certain aspects of our mandate, and we have shown you our progress to date.
- I know that management questions have also been raised, and have been a subject of some of your discussions. I reiterate UNCTAD's commitment to continue holding regular informal management briefings to take up the questions you have in this respect; and one of the first issues we aim to address in the next briefing is the QCPR follow-up and the United Nations reform. I also wish to re-assure you that we will make all efforts to ensure the TDB is informed and involved in the QCPR consultations, particularly as they reach a critical phase this fall.
- You can count on me to offer you all the support I can in discharging your responsibilities, and in providing you inputs into the process going forward. From the Secretariat's point of view, with phase 2 underway, let us put all ideas on the table to revitalize UNCTAD.

- I urge you to recall that you that the TDB has the responsibility to achieve results as a whole. I know that you are working well together as a group and I trust that your constructive engagement and collective efforts will continue. Your success today will ensure that we go forward to phase 2 with the same goodwill that led to the successful outcome at UNCTAD 14. I wish the best for your continued deliberations and the successful completion of your work this afternoon. Thank you.